

THE GULP



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY // VOL. 100 NO. 7 SUMMER 2016

BROWN PELICANS AT RISK... AGAIN

BY ILANA DEBARE

Brown Pelicans are among the Bay Area's most iconic birds—recognizable for their prehistoric silhouettes, squadron-like flight formations, and spectacular dives. Threatened with extinction by DDT in the 1960s, they were removed from the Endangered Species List in 2009. Now Brown Pelicans are at risk again—but Golden Gate Audubon Society and other Audubon chapters across California are stepping in to help.

PELICANS CONTINUED on page 5



Brown Pelican in San Francisco.
David Assmann



Ilana DeBare

GGAS board member Clay Anderson depicts a juvenile Night-Heron during the Heron Art Flash Mob.

CONSERVATION IS A TEAM SPORT

BY CINDY MARGULIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This spring, Golden Gate Audubon Society extended its work to protect Black-Crowned Night Herons in the very urban setting of downtown Oakland.

Two years ago, the U.S. Postal Service provoked viral media outrage when it hired a tree contractor to prune trees in which herons were nesting. Fortunately, International Bird Rescue was there to care for the young heron victims. IBR and GGAS released the birds together, and—seizing the media's attention—GGAS launched a multi-faceted campaign to educate people

about bird-safe tree care. We presented at forums for professional arborists and urban foresters, and published a pamphlet in Spanish and English that has been used by local cities.

In spring 2015, we initiated efforts to protect all the herons nesting in Oakland's downtown. We distributed posters informing neighbors how to help and led a series of public educational walks. While we couldn't create a physical safety cordon around the extensive heronry, we found a way to draw a circle of compassion around the rookery.

Our very first Art Flash Mob in 2015 summoned local artists to portray these species in sidewalk chalk so passersby would look out for Oakland's herons. This April, our second Flash Mob drew two dozen artists who covered an entire square block with gorgeous heron chalk art!

GGAS also trained 24 volunteer docents this spring to monitor the downtown heronry, educate the public, and watch for birds in distress. Young pre-fledgling herons falling onto concrete risk injuries from the hardscape as well as danger from cars, exposure, or starvation. So GGAS partnered with the Oakland Zoo to develop a rapid-response protocol. Our docents could call the Zoo's professional animal handling team to rescue stranded herons and transport them to IBR for rehabilitation. It's worked marvelously: Oakland Zoo helped us rescue more than 20 young herons! And our partners at International Bird Rescue proved again why they are the leading waterbird care center in the entire world.

Clearly, conservation is a team sport! Our wins are bigger and sweeter when celebrated with such worthy partners.

* * * * *

Collaboration is essential within as well as between organizations. Since becoming Executive Director, I've had the privilege of partnering with outgoing Board President Alan Harper. Alan has been a devoted champion for GGAS—whether meeting with county supervisors about protecting birds at the Altamont Pass or opening his home for our annual Birdathon Celebration. Thank you, Alan! I look forward to partnering with Diane Bennett, our new Board President.

NEWS BRIEFS

Seeking Centennial Volunteers...

Golden Gate Audubon Society is gearing up to celebrate our historic 100th birthday in 2017—and we need your help! We need volunteers to help organize a traveling museum exhibit, gala receptions, sponsorships, auction donations, videos about GGAS, and more. Whatever your interest, we have a role for you! Ready to help out? Want to know more? Please email Ilana at idebare@goldengateaudubon.org.

...And Seeking YOUR Stories and Photos!

As part of our Centennial, we're collecting stories and photos from Golden Gate Audubon members over the years. Do you have photos from field trips in past decades? Favorite GGAS memories? How and why did you get involved with GGAS? What changes have you seen in Bay Area birding over the years? Please contact Ilana at idebare@goldengateaudubon.org or (510) 301-5573 to share your stories and photos.



(Left) Bob Lewis receives the Chandler Robbins Award from the ABA; (above) Birdathon fundraising winner Dan Harris receives his award from GGAS Communications Director Ilana DeBare.

2016 BIRDATHON WINNERS— AND SOME AUDUBON HEROES

BY ILANA DEBARE

This spring brought awards from outside as well as inside Golden Gate Audubon.

After six years, Golden Gate Audubon Society's annual Birdathon has become as much of a happy tradition as spring migration.

Some things were new about our 2016 Birdathon, such as exciting new trips like a behind-the-scenes tour of International Bird Rescue.

But other things were familiar: the enthusiasm of trip leaders and participants, the impassioned fundraising outreach by GGAS members, and the generosity of donors.

Thanks to everyone involved, Birdathon 2016 surpassed its goal and raised over \$63,000 for GGAS's conservation and education programs. Nearly 200 birders took part in 22 special field trips throughout April that resulted in over 550 separate donations.

The top fundraising award went, for the second year in a row, to Dan Harris. Dan set a new Birdathon

record by raising \$3,100 from over 60 friends and family members!

Other top fundraisers were Holly and Martin Bern, Jane Hart, and Pat Kirkpatrick. Meredith Williams won a new prize for top first-time Birdathon fundraiser.

Birding honors, meanwhile, went to Bob Lewis and his Hayward Shoreline field trip for Best Bird (Laughing Gull, a first sighting for Alameda County); Dave Rienzsche and his East Bay Parks team for most species (146) in 24 hours; and Bob Power and his Southern Alameda County crew for most species (115) in six hours.

Our 2016 Elsie Roemer Conservation Award went to Cornelia "Corny" Foster, a GGAS volunteer who launched monthly habitat clean-up days at Crissy Field beach, an important roosting site for threatened Western Snowy Plovers and other birds.

Our 2016 Paul Covel Environmental Education Award went to Alan Kaplan, a GGAS field trip leader whose monthly walks in the East Bay hills overflow with both bird lore and a stunningly far-ranging knowledge of natural and social history.

Notably, this spring brought awards from outside as well as inside Golden Gate Audubon. We were delighted when GGAS member Leora Feeney was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame for her decades of work for birds and wildlife on the island of Alameda.

And we were thrilled when the American Birding Association chose GGAS board member and birding instructor Bob Lewis for one of their highest national honors, the Chandler Robbins Education/Conservation Award. ABA President Jeffrey Gordon presented Bob with the award at our June Speaker Series, just before Bob's talk on the birds and wildlife of southeast Asia.

SPEAKER SERIES



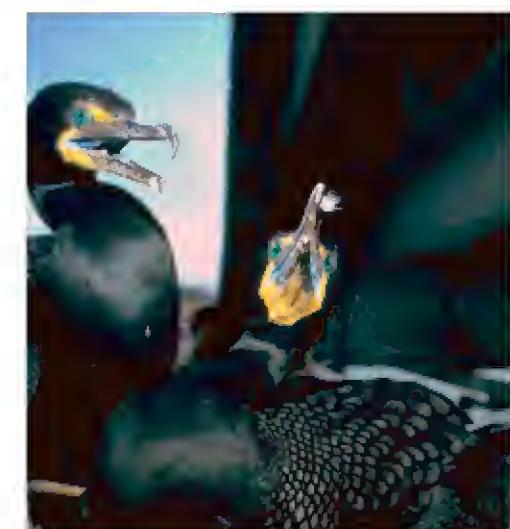
Immature male Brambling.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS ON THE BAY BRIDGES

MARK RAUZON AND MEREDITH ELLIOTT

The Bay Bridge and Richmond-San Rafael Bridge have hosted the Bay Area's largest nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants for decades. But now these colonies are declining, and their nesting structures are being dismantled or blocked off for maintenance. Where will the cormorants nest in the future? Learn about this resilient species and what researchers are learning about the regional population of this adaptable yet maligned bird.

Mark Rauzon, a geography professor at Laney College, is a wildlife biologist specializing in seabird conservation. Meredith Elliott is a Senior Scientist at Point Blue Conservation Science who has worked on seabird monitoring.



Double-crested Cormorants on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

A VERY BIG CALIFORNIA YEAR

CURTIS MARANTZ

LOCATION / DATE

San Francisco
Thursday, July 21
6:30 p.m. refreshments
7 p.m. program

Curtis Marantz spent 2014 crisscrossing California in an attempt to find as many species as possible during a one-year period. He ultimately found 485—including every species that now breeds regularly in the state—and broke the previous record of 481 set in 1996 by Vernon Howe. Curtis will give an overview of how he set this new record, including stories about the birds seen (or missed!) while driving 40,000 miles in a single year. He'll show photos of the more unusual species.

Curtis Marantz received an M.S. in biology from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts. His research examined vocal variation and systematics in groups of woodcreepers, a passerine family that occurs exclusively in the Neotropics. For his fieldwork, Marantz spent extended periods of time making audio recordings of woodcreepers and other birds in the forests of Brazil and Venezuela. He is now a biological consultant in Riverside.

San Francisco: First Unitarian Universalist Church and Center, 1187 Franklin Street (at Geary). Public transit, street parking, and parking in a lot for a fee are available. Directions: Visit www.uusf.org/visitors_faq.html, and use the Map It! link on the left.

Berkeley: Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin). Directions: www.northbrae.org/directions.html.

LOCATION / DATE

Berkeley
Thursday, August 18
6:30 p.m. refreshments
7 p.m. program

SEABIRD CONSERVATION IN THE FARALLONES

SEAN DENNY

LOCATION / DATE

San Francisco
Thursday, September 15
6:30 p.m. refreshments
7 p.m. program

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary along the central California coast protects some of the world's most productive waters, including the highest density of seabirds in the contiguous United States. Learn about the fascinating history of seabird conservation in the Farallones sanctuary, including historic activities on Southeast Farallon Island and current efforts to monitor and restore seabird populations.

Sean Denny is an Outreach Specialist for the Seabird Protection Network, a program of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. He has a Masters in Conservation Science and years of experience engaging the public in conservation issues both in the U.S. and abroad.



Common Murres in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

PELICANS CONTINUED from page 1

Brown Pelicans along the Pacific coast have endured a series of terrible breeding seasons, possibly linked to declines in forage fish populations. This year's breeding pairs numbered only 10 to 20 percent of the long-term average.

Golden Gate Audubon citizen scientists are gathering information that could help Brown Pelicans survive.

"We are contributing to scientific understanding of what is going on with this beautiful and troubled species," said GGAS Executive Director Cindy Margulis.

GGAS's involvement with pelicans is not new. Leora Feeney—founder of GGAS's Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve committee—started doing twice-monthly California Brown Pelican surveys along Alameda's shoreline over 15 years ago.

Together with John Luther, she documented large numbers of pelicans roosting on an island breakwater next to the former Alameda naval air base. In the summer, they frequently found over 1,000 birds on that breakwater. One evening in 2006 they counted over 8,500!

Roost sites—places where birds can rest securely—are particularly important for pelicans. They use roost sites not only to rest overnight but to preen, warm themselves, socialize, and dry their feathers, which don't resist water.

Alameda's Breakwater Island roost faced an uncertain future with the decommissioning of the naval base. But GGAS used



Richard Bangert
Brown Pelicans roosting on the Alameda breakwater island.

Over 200 birders documented 6,500 pelicans at about 180 sites, including the Breakwater Island roost in Alameda.

Leora and John's data to argue for the roost's permanent protection—ultimately convincing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which took over the naval base in 2014, to include that area in the Alameda Wildlife Reserve.

Pelican biologists, who tend to focus on coastal roosts, traditionally had not viewed the Alameda site as significant. But GGAS citizen science helped put the breakwater "on the map" for researchers.

This spring, a biologist spotted a pelican there that had been rehabilitated and radio-tagged after the May 2015 Refugio oil spill in Santa Barbara County. Researchers were thrilled to find the bird alive and active 500 miles north of its release site. In addition, they tracked its repeated flights to and from the coast—showing how pelicans use the Alameda site as a colonial night roost from which they disperse each day to forage.

Meanwhile, GGAS joined with Audubon California, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other agencies in May 2016 in the first biannual Brown Pelican survey covering Baja California to Washington.

Over 200 birders documented 6,500

pelicans at some 180 sites, primarily in California. Of course GGAS members were counting at the Alameda roost!

During the count, John Luther noticed a pelican with a blue band, a sign that it had been rehabilitated by International Bird Rescue in Fairfield. But this wasn't just any banded pelican...it was the same bird that had been released the previous week in Sausalito, as part of a GGAS Birdathon "behind the scenes" trip to IBR!

Golden Gate Audubon's work touches all aspects of Brown Pelican conservation, as it does with other species. Out birding in the field, GGAS members sometimes rescue distressed birds and bring them to rehabilitation agencies like IBR. Our volunteers also report sightings of banded birds, generating data on bird survival and movement.

As citizen scientists, GGAS members take part in surveys like the pelican count that provide critical range-wide data. And as policy advocates, GGAS members speak out for birds and habitat in effective and informed ways—with meaningful results like preservation of Breakwater Island in the Alameda Wildlife Reserve.



Rick Lewis
Brown Pelican diving.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your generous donations to support our many conservation, education, and member activities!

Donations from March 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016

GOLDEN EAGLE

\$1000 or more

Alameda Point Partners,
Mary Austin, Chris &
Gary Bard, Holly Bern,
Mary Betlach, Farella
Braun + Martel, Daryl
Goldman & Jeanette
Nichols, Patricia Greene,
Pat Kirkpatrick, March
Conservation Fund,
Craig Newmark, SCS
Global Services, Stefan
Williams

PEREGRINE FALCON

(\$500 to \$999)

Andrea Burhoe, Don
Colberg, Jacqueline
Craig, Alan Kaplan,
Mary Krentz, Bethany
Kristovich, Marie
Lipman, Kelly Purcell,
Anne B. Rowe, Alan &
Ruth Tobey, Linda Vallee

LEAST TERN

(\$250 to \$499)

Eddie Bartley, Diane
& Tom Bennett,
Susanna Benningfield,
Catherine Blake, Bonnie
Bompert, Eleanor
Briccetti, Eugenia &
Peter Caldwell, Linda &
Bob Carloni, Margaret
Clarson, John Domzalski,
Mary M. Filippini,
Elaine Geffen, Dan
Harris, Wen Hsu, James
Irvine Foundation, Peg
Janosch, William P.
Jones, David Krimm,
Alice Li, Herb & Randi
Long, Bruce Mast,
Peter Morgan, Amanda
Nelson, Jeanette
Nichols, George
Peyton, Bob Power,
Robin Rielley, James
N. Roethe, Jon Sieker,
Craig A. Spriggs, Glen
Tepke, Suzanne Tucker,
Meredith Williams

RIDGWAY'S RAIL

(\$100 to \$249)

Alice Abbott, Sue
Adams, Marianne
Agnew, Hap Allen, Mary
Allen, Karen Anderson,
Ursula & Tim Anderson,
John Bacon, Cyndi
Bakir, Stella Bates,
Kristen Beckus-Baker,
Wendy Beers, Anna
Beth Benningfield, Scott
Benson, Anne-Edward
Bodel-Hannemann,
William Bondy,
Marion Brackett,
Don Braden, Robert
& Barbara Brandriff,
Xavier Brouard,
Mary Burmester,
Amy Chambers, Rich
Chambers, Amy &
Rob Chastain, Alice
Chetkovich, Carol
Chetkovich, Kathy
Chetkovich, Robert
Coon, Jeanine Cotter,
Bob & Edna Cox,
Ilana DeBare, Robert
DeCicco, Donald
Dvorak, EarthShare
California, Jan Eldred,
Natalee Ernstrom,
Leora Feeney, Wendi
Felson, Jane Fischberg,
MarySue Fisher,
Jonathan Franzen,
Angie Geiger, Karen Ray
Gibson, Linda H. Grant,
Ken Greenberg, Wendy
Gregson, Amanda M.
Hamilton, Kevin Hart,
Lori Hatakeyama,
Christine Hayamizu,
David Hayashida,
Derek Heins, Doug
Henderson, Jeffrey L.
Hendricks, John Hornor,
Ann Hughes, Diane
Ichiyasu, Hilma Jones,
Kathryn Jordan, Steve
Kenyon, Sara Klein, Pat
Kline, Johan Langewis,
Dawn Lemoine, Judy

Levin, Rick Lewis,
Hannelore Lewis, Ann
Linsley, Ron Mallory,
Betty & Jim McDonald,
Janet McGarry,
Pamela McKown, Craig
McNamara, Sue Morgan,
Jaime Morgan-Braden,
Beth Moseley, Dan &
Joan Murphy, Valerie
Neale, Henry Newhall,
Audre W. Newman, Kai
Okada, Mari Overbeck,
Patrick Owens, Susan E
Palo, Piedmont Garden
Club, Julianne Podesta,
Megan Prelinger, Phil
Price & Juliet Lamont,
Laurel Przybylski, Peter
Ray, Louise Richardson,
Rebecca Robinson,
Michael Royce, Lee
Rudin, Jack Ryder,
Salesforce (Ken Copen),
Rochelle Satter, Martha
Saylor, Jonathan
Schilling, Sam Schuchat,
William Earl Schultz,
Nina Schwartz, Sara
Segal, Rachel Silverstein,
Eric Snow, Jenifer Steele,
Robert & Julianne
Stokstad, Madelyn
Stone, Emilie Strauss,
Sylvia Sykora, Augusta
Talbot, Marjorie Thomas,
Lee Thomas, Jerry Ting,
Sandra Treacy, Laura
Trupin, Yulling Tsai,
Rube Warren, Wendy
Jeane Warrington, Teri &
Chris Wills, Christopher
Winn, Hilary Winslow,
Kenneth Winston,
Chris Witt, Kathy Wolf,
Sophia Wong, Stephanie
Woods,

GIFTS

(Up to \$99)

Jason Abramovitz, Al &
Susan Adams, Joellen
Ademski, Craig Albert,
Sarah Allday, Susan M.

Allen, Amazon Smile
Foundation, David E.
Anderson, Clara H.
Arakaki, David Assmann,
Frances Aubert, Lee
Aurich, Jennifer Ayres,
Roslyn & Paul Banish/
Epstein, Carolynn &
Blake Bartosh, Olive
L. Bavins, Candace
Berthrong, Shira Bezalel,
Marjorie Blackwell,
Robert Blumberg,
Karen Bodine, Larissa
Bordere, Nik & Lauren
Brauer, Jenny Breckler,
Maryellen Buckley,
Deborah Bullock,
Peggy Burks, Karen
A. Butterfield, Jean
Buxton, Barbara Byrnes,
Angela Calvillo, John
S. Canham, Ursuline
Carpetta, Claudia Alden
Case, Cathy Catterson,
Sally Cedarblade, Toni
Childress, Martha
Chilvers, Judith C. Chin,
Maggie Christ, Wai
Chung, Kim Coates,
Diana Cohen, Sandy
Cohen-Wynn, Martin
Cohn, Darcy Cohn,
Sheila Collins, Caren
Corley, Eugene Corr,
Don Couch, Patricia
Z. Covert, Robin Cox,
Ann & Eric Cross,
Lauretta Ann Cuadra,
Gregory Dahl, Chuck
Dake, Susan Shargel &
Dave Kramer, Judith W.
Davis, Liz Davis, Deb
DeBare, Merrill Deskins,
Cathy Diamond, Leslie
K. Doughty, Joanne &
Fred Dykstra, Elinor
Elphick, Jan Elvee,
Thomas Ewing, Niki
Faller, Lewis J. Feldman,
Dan & Nina Fendel,
Sabrina Fernandez, Gary
& Paula Fracchia, Judith
Marie Frank, Monica

French, Annie, Barry,
& Zed Friedman, Anne
Gable, Patricia Gannon,
Joe Ghione, William J.
Giddens, Crosby Glass,
Karen Gleason, Lorrie
Goldin, Philip E. Gordon,
James Grainger,
James & Cecile Grant,
Pauline Grant, Diane
Graves, Melissa Green,
Paul Greenberg, Julia
Guichard, Sue Hahn,
Pauline Hale, Lana
Hameister, Margaret
Hangan, Jim & Linda
Hargrove, Bettylou
Harmon, Edith Harris,
Vera Harris, Nina &
Jeff Harris/Crook,
Pam Hemphill, Gloria
A. Herrera, Robert
Hirschberg, Carol
Hochberg-Holker,
Kathleen Hoesley,
Judith Hoff, Anne Hoff,
Maria Hoffmann, Herb/
Leslie Holman/Paine,
Ann Howard, Wei Huey,
Joseph Hughes, William
Hurley, Leslie Jacoby,
Laura Johnston, Robin
Flagg & Jon Braslaw,
Carolyn Jones, Marvin
Kagan, Linda Kalinowski,
Amelia Kaplan, Fonda
Karelitz, Jonathan
Kaufman, Gailen
Keeling, Eileen Kelly,
Robin Kempster, Nancy
Kenyon, James Kingsley
III, Jill & Ed Kneeter/
Zerin, Janice Kolberg,
Fanny Krieger, Maureen
Lahiff, Joan Lamphier,
Carol Lampson, Michael
Landy, Lisa Large,
Fredric Laurentine,
Janice Law, Judith
Leash, Rich Lesnik,
Connie Levi, Paula Levitt,
Bonnie Lewkowicz, Mark
Lipman, Thomas Liston,
Carolyn Longstreth,

Doris Lopez, Jen Love,
Beth Maldonado,
Eunice Malley, Hallie
Marker, Jeff Martin,
Michael Tunde
Martins, Dave Massen,
Jean Matsuno, Curt
Mayer, Deborah
Mayer, Donna O.
Maytham, Pamela
Christina McCarthy,
Mary McClung, Mac
McCrory, Jen & Mike
McDougall, Helen
McKinley, Mary Ellen
McMurtrie, Joseph
Megan, Michelle
Mehlhorn, Lydia
Mendoza, Joyce
Mercado, Theodore
Miclau, Bennett
Miller, Rebecca Miller,
Nancy Mix, Nick
Moore, Lois & Mike
Moore/Karpinko,
Paige Morgan, Tom
Morgan, Tim & Katrina
Morshead, Christine
Moss, Jennie Moylan,
Kathleen A. Mugele,
Katiann Murillo, Norma
Neumann-Johnson,
Donna Neumark,
Phuong Nguyen,
Donald Nicol, Maureen
Noon, Kathy North,
Sandra Novick, Teresa
O'Carroll, Jeff Odefey,
Kris & Owen Odonnell,
Susan Oehser, Barry
Ogilvie, Susan & Mike
Olig, Russell Oliver,
Chris & Ari Olson/
Turrentine, Kathryn
O'Neal, Karl Palmer,
Nanda Palmieri, Denny
Parker, Janis Jean
Pearson, Katherine
& Mar Perl, Connie
Philipp, Ellen Pompa,
Betsy Powell, Marjorie
Powell, Hilary Powers,
Heather Price, Annie
Prutzman, James

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Volunteer Training

Share the wonders of nature as a Burrowing Owl docent along the Berkeley shoreline or as an Eco-Education volunteer working with elementary school kids in San Francisco or the East Bay. For dates and info about September volunteer training dates, please contact nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org.

Restore Habitat with GGAS

Celebrate Coastal Cleanup Day with us on Saturday, September 19, at Pier 94 in S.F. or MLK Jr. Shoreline in Oakland—or volunteer during one of our many other habitat restoration days each month. Get outdoors, make a difference, spot birds! Dates and details at goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer.

Connect with GGAS online

We offer over 150 free bird walks each year! Learn about upcoming field trips and other birding events by email. Contact ggas@goldengateaudubon.org to receive our free monthly Field Trips and e-Gull e-newsletters. Or learn about upcoming field trips on our website or through Meetup.com.

Fall Classes Coming Soon

Sign up to become a better birder through our fall classes in Beginning and Advanced Beginning Birding, Birding by Ear, Water Birds, Birds of the Bay Area, and more. Our fall schedule will be posted in August. You'll find the details at goldengateaudubon.org/education/classes.

ROSTER

BIRDATHON 2016 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Silver Sponsors

Dolphin Charters

Bronze Sponsors

Farella Braun + Martel
Recology
SCS Global Services

Copper Sponsors

Emergency Management &
Safety Solutions
Lozeau Drury LLP
Homebrew Management LLC

Puskar, Dorothy &
Boris Ragent, Donna
Rand, David Rice,
Ann M. Richter, Jeff &
Katherine Rieger, Isaac
Rose, Bradley Rose,
Gabriel Rose, Ed Rosen,
John Rosenbaum,
Eunice Rosenberg,
William Rosenthal,
Suzanne & Matthew
Ryan, Leslie Saperstein,
Mark Sapiro,
Stephanie Schmitt,
Cynthia Schramm,
Eric Schroeder, Irena
Schwaderer, Eric
Schwartz, William
Schweitzer, Dorothy
Sellman, Michael
& Aline Singman,
Ralph Sinick, Frieda
Sion, Karen Smillie,
Judith Smith, Patricia
Souza, Holly Spark,
Sara A. Spencer,
Christine Steck, Janet
Stephenson, Maury

Stern, Judy Stern, Laurel
& Martin Stevenson,
Amber Sumrall, Nancy
Szymanski, Aryeh Talmir,
Lora & Winston Teitler,
Ilse Tepke, Teri & Mark
Thompson/Caputo, Gail
Thorne, Stan & Steffi
Tick, David Tomb, Caitlin
Tomelden, Blake &
Colombe Tresan, Paula
Trossman, Andy & Mary
Jo Turner, Tim Turner,
United Way California
Capital Region, Trina Van
Winkle, Emily Vassos,
Lynda Veliz, Martijn
Verdoes, Jennifer
Watts, Noreen Weeden,
Kenneth Weidner, Nancy
Weir, Linsa Wertheim,
Nancy Wieting, Lesley
Williams, Alison
Williams, Richard &
Gary Winn/Abel, Felicity
Wohltman, Margaret
Wong, Dan Wool, Jaz
Zaitlin, Robert Zwissig



Lee Karney

Restoring habitat at Pier 94.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Anne Bergman, in honor of Pat Greene
Sandra Bern, in honor of Martin and Holly Bern
Eileen Cafferty, in honor of Holly Bern
Jane Hart, in honor of the GGAS Staff
Lois Hirsch & Dan Harris, in honor of
Everett Arthur Crook
Joy Howard, in honor of Chris Tarr
Kathleen Korpell, in honor Joellen Ademski
Ida Kuluk, in honor of Jeanette and Daryl
Pamela Llewellyn, in honor of Jim Llewellyn
Bernadette Maher, in honor of Sue Morgan
Carl Schroeder, in honor of Pat Greene
Holly Shepard, in honor of Jane Hart
Jamiriam Soerg, memory of Eric Snow
E. Elizabeth Summers, in honor of Sue Morgan
Nancy Tivol, in honor of Louise Harm, Cora Tivol,
and Jacqueline Craig
Carol White, in honor of Dan Harris

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Phyllis Brooks Schafer, in memory of Edward Schafer
Nancy Coleman-Frank, in memory of Mary Catherine
Tobey Breunig
Phil Cotty, in memory of Edmond Cotty
Deborah Craig, in memory of William Craig
Nancy Evans, in memory of Olive Mylar
Lois Hirsch, in memory of Ethel Hirsch
Renee Johnson, in memory of Georgette Sullivan
Richard & Jennifer Shaw Navarrete, in memory of
Jill Leng
Jacquelyn Pass, in memory of Orien Pass
Mark Rauzon, in memory of Allen Hirsch
Esther Rogers & Rob DeBare, in memory of
Nancy DeBare

BEQUESTS

Estate of Jill Bryans

IN-KIND GIFTS

Alpha Pet Supply/Wild Bird's Nest, Animal Farm,
Arizmendi, Patricia Bacchetti, Sharon Beals,
Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Bird vs. Bird Designs,
Marjorie Blackwell, Cliff House, Jacqueline Craig,
Dolphin Charters, FarWest Sanitation & Storage,
Harry Fuller, The Grove, Hansen Aggregates, Alan
Harper & Carol Baird, Joshua Inn B&B, Maureen
Lahiff, Barbara Loomis, Mendocino Coast Botanical
Gardens, Oaklandish, Out of This World Optics,
Point Cabrillo Light Station, Point Reyes Birding
Festival, Recology, Robert Young Estate Winery,
Erica Rutherford & John Colbert, Port of San
Francisco, Sierra Hot Springs, Sports Basement,
Jenifer Steele, Paul Weaver

EMPLOYEE GIFT MATCHES

California Healthcare Foundation (Rosanna Tran)
Chevron (Dawn Lemoine, John Long, Charles
MacFarlane)
Dolby Matching Gifts Program (Elizabeth Azinheira)
GAP Inc.
NorCal Mutual Insurance Company (Mitchell Youngman)
PG&E Corp. Foundation (Diane Ross-Leech)
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

GRANTS

Rose Foundation – Treasure Island Wetlands Project
Salesforce

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Diane Bennett

Vice President and Secretary
Linda Carloni

Treasurer
Bill Hudson

Clayton Anderson, Carol Baird, Jack Dumbacher,
Jill O'Brien, Jack Ryder, Pam Young

STAFF

Executive Director
Cindy Margulis, 510.843.9912
cmargulis@goldengateaudubon.org

Education Director
Anthony DeCicco, 510.843.2222
adecicco@goldengateaudubon.org

Volunteer Coordinator
Noreen Weeden, 510.301.0570
nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org

Communications Director
Ilana DeBare, 510.301.5573
idebare@goldengateaudubon.org

Eco-Education Program Coordinator
Marissa Ortega-Welch, 510.843.2222
mortegawelch@goldengateaudubon.org

Office Manager
Monica Moore, 510.843.2222
mmoore@goldengateaudubon.org

THE GULL AND WEBSITE

Gull and Web Editor
Ilana DeBare, idebare@goldengateaudubon.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRD BOX

Report your unusual bird sightings: 415.681.7422

The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Supporting Membership is \$35 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. The board of directors meets six times per year (schedule can be obtained from the office).

The *Gull* is published four times per year. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA. Send address changes to the office promptly. The post office does not forward *The Gull*.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
9 a.m. – noon, and other hours by appointment
Tel 510.843.2222

www.goldengateaudubon.org
ggas@goldengateaudubon.org

Nature Store

Visit our online store at goldengateaudubon.org/store.

This issue of *The Gull* was published in July 2016.

Design by e.g. communications

www.goldengateaudubon.org



The Gull is printed with soy-based inks on chlorine-free paper, 30% postconsumer waste content.

2 Protecting Oakland's Herons

How GGAS is partnering with wildlife rescue groups to save fallen heron chicks in the heart of downtown.

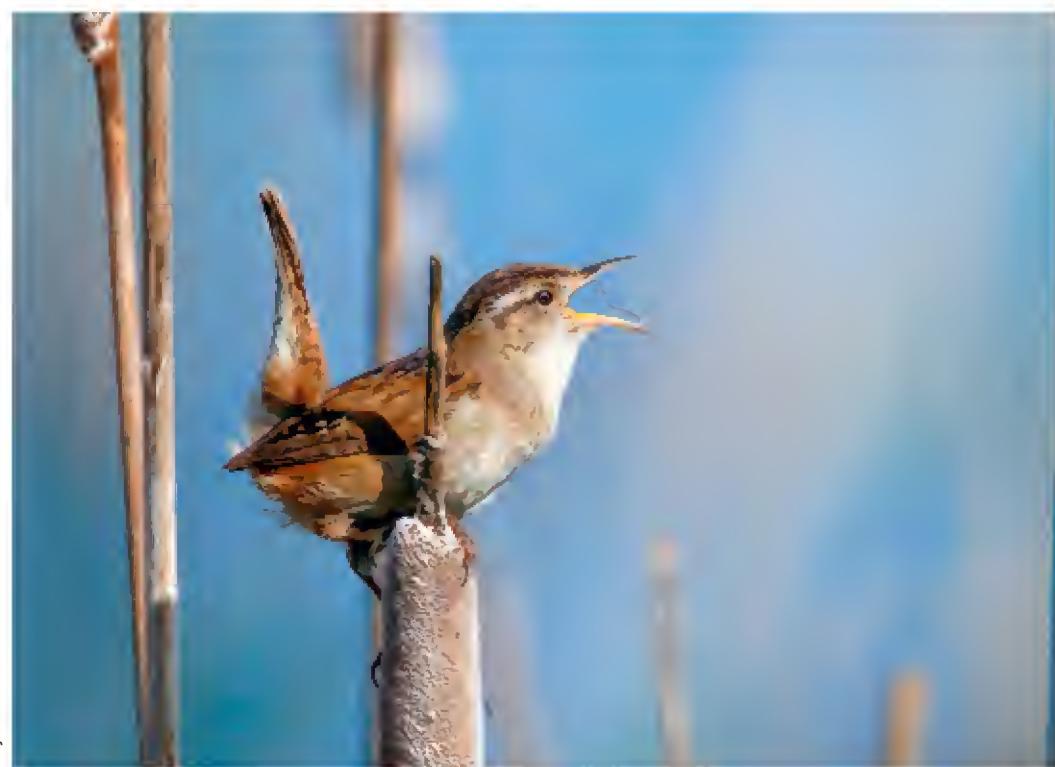
3 An "Awarding" Season

GGAS members racked up Birdathon awards as well as honors from outside groups during spring 2016.

4 Speaker Series

Join us on July 21 to learn about a California Big Year that totaled 485 species and set a new record.

BACKYARD BIRDER



Mya Lucas

Marsh Wren at Las Gallinas Ponds in San Rafael.

MARSH WREN

BY MIYA LUCAS

You're walking through a marshy area of reeds and cattails in spring or early summer when you hear a complex song of high trills and rattles—the Marsh Wren.

Only the male Marsh Wren sings, but he sings both night and day. It's estimated that the western Marsh Wren has over 200 songs in its repertoire, while the East Coast variant has only about 50. Like so many other birds, the male sings to attract a mate and protect

his territory. During mating season, you can usually see him balancing atop a reed or cattail.

Males often mate with two females, occasionally even three. Along with his song, he attracts a mate through construction of a nest. He typically builds more than six nests for every one that's occupied; in some areas the average number of nests per male is as high as 22.

It's surmised that the function of these extra nests is to provide decoys that protect the real nest from predators. These predators are often other Marsh Wrens, which seek out and destroy eggs of both wrens and other birds in their territory. For instance, they're notorious for killing Red-winged Blackbird eggs. It's possible they do this to ensure there is enough food for their own chicks.

When a female Marsh Wren enters a male's territory in mating season, he flips his tail wings up to his head, sings fast rapid songs, and then flies off. She may follow as he shows off his nests. If interested, she selects one nest, builds a step inside it, and layers the floor with feathers and grasses.

Marsh Wrens often have two broods—in early spring and then 1-2 months later in July or August. Incubation lasts approximately 11-14 days.

Only the female sits on the eggs. She feeds herself and chases off any male that gets near her nest. Meanwhile, the male sings and builds more nests to attract another female. Once a brood is hatched, the male sometimes helps with feeding them.

Marsh Wrens reside year round in the Bay Area and Delta. They are currently thriving and are listed as a species of least concern, although National Audubon predicts that climate change will shift their range northward and reduce their summer habitat.